NN/LM

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

New England Region

New England Sounding Line

Winter '99 Update
by John Stey, Associate Director

We are happy to announce that Daniel Dollar is our new Education Coordinator. Daniel received his MLS from the University of Maryland and has worked for the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. He has been traveling with Nancy Putnam assisting with PubMed training and exhibits in the region Our Technology Coordinator position remains vacant. NLM has given the green light for all NN/LM regions to hire a Consumer Health Information Coordinator. This outreach position will coordinate access to consumer health information in the region and will require travel in New England. Look for a job description and announcement to be posted on the NEHSL listserv sometime in March. Anyone interested in either position should contact the NER office at 1-800-338-7657.

The Annual Outreach RFP has been sent to all network members. Proposals are due April 16th. Don't miss this opportunity to fund your idea to improve access to healthcare information. These subcontracts enable institutions to reach out with their services and programs to those in need within the community. A copy of the RFP is also located on the NN/LM NER home page at **http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner**. For more information, contact Nancy Putnam at 860-679-4500.

The National Online Training Center will be providing *Making the Transition* classes at Tufts University Health Sciences Library on April 8th and 9th in Boston. To reserve a seat, call the NOTC office by dialing 1-800-338-7657 and press "2".

The Annual Regional ILL/Document Delivery meeting will be held at the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA on April 22nd. The agenda will be posted on the NEHSL listserv. This meeting is co-sponsored by NAHSL and provides a unique opportunity for ILL librarians and staff to meet to discuss current issues and concerns related to interlibrary loan. Jay Daly will also provide a QuickDoc update.

EFTS2 has been operational since January and a new EFTS Policy and Procedures document was mailed to all participants. If you have not received your copy, it is available by calling the NER office or downloading it from the EFTS web site. As always, we welcome feedback on EFTS and other NLM and NN/LM programs and services. Send your comments to the NEHSL listserv or to one of the NER staff. Their email addresses are located on page 2.

We hope to see many of you at the spring consortia meetings being planned. Along with all of you, the NER staff are eagerly waiting for spring and news about the new DOCLINE/DOCUSER from NLM!

Connecticut   Maine   Massachusetts   New Hampshire   Rhode Island   Vermont

Check us out on the World Wide Web at http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/

New Education Coordinator for the NER
by Daniel Dollar, Education Coordinator

Hello my name is Daniel Dollar, and as John Stey mentioned in his column, I am the new Education Coordinator for the New England Region. I look forward to helping you meet your educational needs regarding NLM databases. Please feel free to contact me for telephone consultations concerning your PubMed and Internet Grateful Med questions or to inquire about scheduling training sessions at your institution.

Just to give you a little background on myself, I graduated last December with a Master's of Library Science from the University of Maryland. I gained my initial interest in becoming a librarian from working as a researcher in the reference division of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. While a graduate assistant at Maryland, I had the opportunity to design and lead user education classes. Thus, I discovered that the most exciting area of librarianship for me is teaching.

Although new, I have been busy. On the NER Education page (**http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/education/**), you will find a PubMed Basics brochure that I modified in both its design and content from the National Library of Medicine original. The brochure is in PDF format. Please send me your comments, and whether or not you find it useful with your patrons.

I am also starting my own column with this issue of the *New England Sounding Line*, called "Education Notes." In the initial installment, I reviewed two videos, one on consumer health information on the Internet, and the other one on clinical decision-making databases. Both of these videos are available for loan from the NN/LM NER. I am open to your suggestions for future column topics.

As someone with a strong inclination to travel and being new to New England, I am excited about teaching courses all over this great region and I look forward to meeting you.

Daniel Dollar
NN/LM NER Education Coordinator
Email: dollar@nso.uchc.edu
Telephone: 860-679-4798 or 800-338-7657

MeSH Browser

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/99MBrowser.html

A new MeSH Browser is available that provides word searching of MeSH terms, links to MeSH terms from Scope Notes and Annotations, access to Supplementary Concept Records, and other features.

It presents, in hypertext, virtually all of the information contained in MeSH records. It should be of interest to indexers, catalogers, reference librarians, and others concerned with controlled terminology. It is not designed to link to a search engine, such as PubMed or Internet Grateful Med.

The browser was develpoed as part of the Indexing Initiative at NLM by Florence Chang and Stuart Nelson.

The Lamar Soutter Library Wins HIV/AIDS Information Funding January, 1999

by Kelly Cronin and Peg Spinner

Even before her first day at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, recently appointed director of the Lamar Soutter Library, Elaine Martin applied for and won an NLM HIV/AIDS Outreach Subcontract.

The Lamar Soutter Library will use the grant's $39,997 funding to provide electronic access to HIV/AIDS information to community-based organizations and clinics in the greater Worcester area whose clients are HIV/AIDS patients and their caregivers. Participating agencies in the newly established Worcester Area HIV/AIDS Information Network (WAHAIN) include AIDS Project Worcester, Family Health Center, Great Brook Valley Health Center, Health Awareness Services, HIV Consortium of Central Massachusetts, Life House, Planned Parenthood, and the Visiting Nurse Association. Two additional agencies, the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Lowell Community Health Center have joined the original WAHAIN Network agencies and represent an additional collaboration between the Lamar Soutter Library and ongoing HIV/AIDS research efforts at the University of Massachusetts, Worcester.

Each participating community organization will receive a personal computer including modem and printer, as well as one year of free access to the Internet. Library staff will install the workstations and provide on-site training classes on Internet basics, health resources on the Internet, Internet Grateful Med, PubMed, and Web page design. Photocopies of articles retrieved from citations from the NLM's MEDLINE and AIDS databases will be provided by library staff for free when requested through Loansome Doc if the material is available in the library. The Lamar Soutter Library Outreach Coordinators, Kelly Cronin and Peg Spinner will develop a project website to encourage sharing of information and to further enhance the sense of community that exists among these organizations.
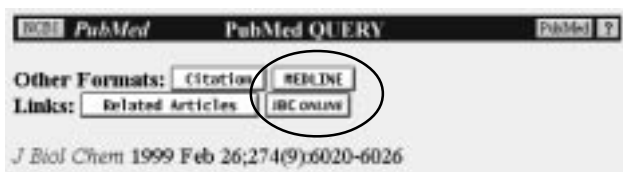
Kelly and Peggy, who are enjoying this opportunity to participate in a collaborative effort between the library and Central Massachusetts HIV/AIDS service agencies, report that work on this project has expanded their computer knowledge, their outreach skills, and their whole idea of what they can do as librarians. They are currently visiting WAHAIN sites, meeting with WAHAIN representatives, planning classes, and perfecting their computer installation skills!

They have found that the increased visibility that comes from an NLM-funded outreach project such as this can also lead to unexpected opportunities within a library's home institution. The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Lowell Community Health Center agencies were not part of the original funding group. The two sites were added when the director of the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Pediatrics HIV/AIDS Research Institute heard about the library's project and requested their inclusion!

Please contact either Kelly Cronin (kelly.cronin @umassmed.edu) at (508) 856-2458 or Peg Spinner (peg.spinner@umassmed.edu at (508) 856-1267 for more information.

Links from PubMed

J Biol Chem 1999 Feb 26;274(9):6020-6026

It's been there for awhile, but you may have missed it as only a few citations had one. As the numbers of citations going into PubMed is ever increasing, more of them are now displaying a link back to a publisher's website where the full text may be available, in some instances for free. After a citation has been displayed, check out the Links listed at the top to see if one exists.

And it's going both ways. Those online publications are linking back to PubMed. Many of the references in an article found in JBC Online were linked back to Medline and the full citation.

So be on the lookout for those links, and read the *Proposal for Linking From PubMed to Document Providers* on page 6 for something new in the works.

Use a Credit Card for EFTS

EFTS is now accepting credit cards to have funds deposited to an institution's account. Both Visa and MasterCard are accepted. To have funds added to your EFTS account with a credit card, call the office at 860-679-4500.

Education Notes
by Daniel Dollar, Education Coordinator

New On Video in the NER office.

Computers in Healthcare Part 1: Consumer Health Information on the Internet
Health & Science Television Network Production
Running time: 30 minutes
August 1998
CE AHP Credit: 1 Credit Hour—AHIMA
CNE Credit: 1 Contact Hour—ANCC

Computers in Healthcare Part 2: Computers and Clinical Decision Making
Health & Science Television Network Production
Running time: 30 minutes
August 1998
CE AHP Credit: 1 Credit Hour—AHIMA
CNE Credit: 1 Contact Hour—ANCC

Part One of this video set is of the most interest to medical librarians. Dr. Kathleen McCormick of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research discusses the problems and promise of the Internet for disseminating consumer healthcare information. Regarding the problems, Dr. McCormick conducts a search using Alta Vista (**http://www.altavista.com**) on heart disease and retrieves millions of websites. How are consumers to judge any one of these sites or have the knowledge to interpret what they find? The term "data smog" is used to describe the unorganized and overwhelming amount of material available.

To combat "data smog," Dr. McCormick points to government and private websites that are organizing and providing consumer information in lay terms. These include:

Government sponsored:

•Healthfinder-**http://www.healthfinder.gov**
•MEDLINEplus-**http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ medlineplus** [*not mentioned in video as it was in beta-test at time of production*]

Private/nonprofit sponsored:
•Healthwise-**http://www.healthwise.org**
•Wellness Checkpoint-**http://www.infotech-wellness.com**

Other:
•IBM provided virtual "Health Villages" that organize information and provide links for hospitals and HMOs.
•Medical Matrix and Physicians Choice-websites that rate Internet resources.

The video also focused on policy issues healthcare professionals and medical librarians need to address concerning privacy, information quality, standards, access, education, and costs. These issues are not new to medical librarians, but for the healthcare professional, solid background is given to help address these challenges. The AMA recommendations for medical websites are quoted, regarding authorship, attribution of the information, disclosure of the website's producer, and currency of the information. Dr. McCormick points out two documents on assessing web resources—a white paper being developed by Mitretek titled *Criteria for Assessing the Quality of Health Information on the Internet*(**http:// www.mitretek.org/hiti/showcase/documents/ criteria.html**), and a list of principles to govern the selection and presentation of healthcare resources on the Internet.

The video is recommended for those who want a basic overview of and introduction to the issues surrounding Internet consumer health information. It is geared more for the health professional than the medical librarian.

The second video focuses on the use of computers in clinical decision making. Doctors Terry Clemmer and Reed Gardner discuss how an integrated clinical database used by the Latter Day Saints Hospital in Salt Lake City has reduced costs and improved care to its patients. The clinical database, called HELP for Health Evaluation through Logical Processes, provides detailed information about every aspect of the patient's stay in the hospital.

The HELP system reminds hospital staff to follow preset procedures, such as administering antibiotics two hours before any surgical operation. If a patient contracts a post-operation infection, the HELP system can provide guidance to the five most likely infectious agents based on the patient's profile and comparison with other patients, and suggests the least expensive and most effective antibiotic. The results have reduced the amount of antibiotics used, along with a decrease in the mortality rate and antibiotic resistant infections. The system can also help physicians determine the best nutritional plan for their patients, and alert them to any possible problems, such as glucose intolerance.

Dr. Clemmer makes an important point that "medicine is inherently an information science." Thus, such clinical decision making systems call on all professionals, including information professionals, to work together in the implementation and effective use of such databases.

Both of these videos are available for loan from NN/ LM NER. Please contact the office at 1-800/338-7657, 860-679-4500 or e-mail Cheryl Sinkler at sinkler@nso.uchc.edu.

1998 November-December; 305

- Correction to the July-August 1998 NLM Technical Bulletin article titled Introducing Internet Grateful Med Version 2.6
- Reminder: Gratefully Yours Ceases Publication
- MEDLINEplus
- Perpetual Transition
- Change in Service Desk Hours
- SERLINE File Update
- CANCERLIT File Removed
- RTECS access via the Web Discontinued
- New Alternative Medicine Journals Selected for Indexing
- Special List B Category of Journals Eliminated
- PubMed and IGM Training Available in 1999
- PubMed Update
- NLM Associates Program
- Correction to the September-October 1998 NLM Technical Bulletin titled MeSH Coming Attractions
- Gold Standard Search
  The consequences of repeated weight loss and weight gain with dieting.
- NLM Classification, 5th Edition Additions and Changes List 3

1999 January-February; 306

- AIDSLINE Satellite Teleconference
- List of Serials Indexed for Online Users (LSIOU),
- 1999 Order Information
- Cumulated Index Medicus, 1998 Order Information
- Updated PubMed and Internet Grateful Med Training Manuals Available
- Correction to the September-October 1998 NLM Technical Bulletin titled AVLINE® and CATLINE® Data To Be Removed from Other NLM Databases
- NLM Classification, 5th Edition Additions and Changes List 4
- PubMed: Searching Using Subsets
- OLDMEDLINE Database Moves Back in Time

NLM Bibliographic Record Distribution to Resume in March

NLM is pleased to announce that it expects to resume bibliographic record distribution by the end of March. The first pull will include all new and modified records produced since October, 1998. NLM will then distribute records on a weekly basis to all subscribers.

Cataloging production at NLM virtually ceased in mid-September 1998 to permit the Library to prepare for conversion to the Voyager integrated library system. Record distribution was halted the following month. After an interval of several weeks to complete conversion and testing, the Voyager cataloging and acquisitions modules came up on December 15.

Only after successful data conversion could programming for NLM bibliographic record distribution begin in earnest. Testing of these programs is now in the final stages, and sample records will be distributed to licensees shortly.

During this interim period NLM has continued to provide cataloging-in-publication (CIP) data for biomedical monographs to the Library of Congress as part of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). These records appear in OCLC and other bibliographic utilities, as distributed by the Library of Congress, but will not appear in NLM's online files until LOCATORplus, the new Voyager OPAC becomes available on the Web.

See the July/August and Sept/Oct issues of the *NLM Technical Bulletin* for further information about the changes to NLM's bibliographic databases (**http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull**).

Are You Using Loansome Doc?

We'd like to hear from you. If you've implemented Loansome Doc in your library and would be willing to write up a short article for the newsletter telling of your experience, please give Ed Donnald a call at 860-679-4793 or e-mail at donnald@nso.uchc.edu

A PROPOSAL FOR LINKING FROM PUBMED TO DOCUMENT PROVIDERS

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/linkout.html

INTRODUCTION

Currently PubMed provides two forms of linkage for document delivery. A button is added to the citation screen for citations provided electronically by the publisher, providing a link to the full text of the article at whatever site the publisher has designated. A request to the more traditional inter-library network for document delivery is provided by an "Order" button to the NLM Loansome Doc service.

This document describes a proposal for PubMed to provide a third mode of document delivery. This service would be intended to allow a user to select from a range of available services, generating a user defined profile.

At any point during their PubMed session, we must be able to efficiently inform the user what documents are available from the services they have selected. Finally, we must be able to connect them to the appropriate services to order or view one or more documents.

It is our desire to require minimal data maintenance by both the content providers and by NCBI, yet still offer a satisfactory level of system performance. This proposal is our attempt to meet those goals, and we welcome any comments or suggestions that might improve the approach.

PERSISTENCE

One requirement is that the user be able to select the services they wish to use one and then that selection be applied whenever they use PubMed. This requires a persistent user profile, and new feature for PubMed. NCBI is implementing such a system, currently called the "NCBI Cubby" (for cubby hole, as you may have had in kindergarten for keeping your crayons in). The first version of the Cubby will be used to store standing queries and to facilitate a "shopping cart" carrying a list of document ids of interest during a session. Once implemented, the Cubby will also be used to store the user's choice(s) of document delivery services.

Each delivery service would be listed alphabetically on a page from which the user can make their selections. A short title, description, and contact information for the service would be available and would be supplied by the service as part of the file describing their holdings (see below). A "delivery service" might be a publisher, an aggregator, or a university library (with contracts with publishers and aggregators).

PERFORMANCE

We considered two possible modes for the document delivery service. One was that the content provider simply provide NCBI a URL which we could use to query if a particular document were available. This has the benefit of a small footprint at NCBI and no maintenance as holdings change. It has the disadvantage, particularly if multiple documents are requested, of slow performance or possible failures.

The other mode is that the document delivery service provide NCBI with some sort of list of holdings and the appropriate URLs for requesting documents. This can become somewhat complex in deciding what data elements are necessary and sufficient to define holdings and to make document requests. It also has more impact on resource design and utilization at NCBI. However, the gains in performance and utility to users has persuaded us that this approach is probably the best compromise.

DESCRIBING HOLDINGS

Since this service is intended specifically for delivery of electronic documents, it is our expectation that holdings descriptions can be simpler than that required by a traditional library. We suggest that simply a

journal identifier (ISSN, journal title, or NCBI journal id) and a start volume (as either a start volume or start year) would be enough. Presumably we could support a stop volume as well, if necessary. NCBI would provide a simple text format, probably XML, to describe the holdings. A delivery service would provide a file listing holdings in this format. A service wishing to update their holdings simply provides a new file (complete replacement).

REQUESTING DOCUMENTS

The holdings file would also include URLs to request documents from the delivery service. There would be one URL for each journal title. This allows different journals to come from different sources for a single service.

The service provides a base URL for the journal, and a tag indicating the type of key to be appended to the URL to designate the article. The key must be something NCBI can provide for any article so candidates might be 1) PubMedId or 2) a formatted string containing year,volume,issue,pages (remember there is one base URL per journal, so the service can include the journal title in the base URL however they wish). NCBI will simply concatenate the base URL and the key(in quotes) and expect it to be a valid URL, allowing the service maximum flexibility in composing the URL (for example, including prepended arguments).

Note that one limit of this approach is that it is difficult to order multiple documents with a single URL. While one could imagine a convention of matching base URLs and combining requests, at present NCBI would only provide an order hotlink from each document on a summary page list, or on a citation view. This decision is based on the assumption that most users will order a few documents at a time so having to click on each one is not too odious, and the advantage of flexibility in defining the URLs outweighs any disadvantage.

AN EXAMPLE

Let us suppose that the University of Galapagos (UG) has a variety of institutional contracts to support electronic document delivery. They have a particular OVID package for 10 journals, another MD Consult package for 10 journals, and 5 direct subscriptions to on-line journals through publishers. They wish to provide their holdings to PubMed.

They simply supply PubMed with listings for 25 journals. They may opt to provide all 25 base URLs to point to a web site at UG. In this case they could act as a referrer, replacing the URLs with ones containing passwords, or keep logs of usage, or whatever they chose.

Alternatively, they may choose to use a base URL that would take the user directly to the content site. In this case the university does not need to supply web services at all, and instead relies on the provider for security and validation. Or they may chose to do some journals one way and some another. The content provider may offer a holdings list in PubMed format to UG as part of their service, but UG can decide how they can best serve their faculty and students.

Note that since the URLs to the document delivery service are included as hot links in a page returned to the user's browser, activation of the hot links by the user will invoke a request from the user, not from PubMed, so any passwords or cookies on the users browser will be available for validation by the service, as well as the user's IP address.

Of course a document delivery service can list their holdings directly with PubMed as well, allowing individual subscribers to select them as their delivery service instead of an institution. The document delivery service may provide more than one holdings list, allowing subscribers to chose from among various packages, for example.

The user must already have made arrangements with the provider. NCBI will provide contact information to the provider, but obviously will not mediate any contractual arrangements.

Visit the web site for this article as well as an example of a linkout holdings file.

Calendar of Events

March 18, 1999
  NAHSL Spring CE
  File Formats and Plug-ins
  9 am-1 pm
  Middletown, CT

March 23, 1999
  NAHSL Spring CE
  File Formats and Plug-ins
  Lewiston/Auburn College 9 am-1 pm
  Lewiston, ME

March 24, 1999
  NAHSL Spring CE
  File Formats and Plug-ins
  Dartmouth College   9 am-1 pm
  Hanover, NH

March 25-28, 1999
  The NER staff will be exhibiting at the National
  Science Teachers Association Conference
  Boston, MA

March 30, 1999
  NAHSL Spring CE
  File Formats and Plug-ins
  Brown University 1:00pm-5:00 pm
  Providence, RI

March 31, 1999
  NAHSL Spring CE
  File Formats and Plug-ins
  Tufts University Health Sciences Library 9 am-1 pm
  Boston, MA

Is Your Web Browser Up To Date?

What version of Netscape or IE are you using these days? They're virtually free and continuously updated to accomodate the best the Internet has to offer and yet they tend to be one of the least upgraded pieces of software. It may be a case of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and your browser seems to be getting the job done. Netscape is offering Version 4.5 and Internet Explorer is preparing to release Version 5 in March. The current versions are somewhat faster than previous releases with an edge for stability going to Netscape. There's also improved capabilities for the printing of web pages, including fitting the Web Page to a piece of paper as well as control over printing the page background.

Take a few moments out of that ever busy scheduled and update your browser software. You'll discover improvements and may now even be able to view that unique file format, e.g. PowerPoint presentation, MS Word document, or others from within your browser. To check what version you are currently using, go to the Help menu and choose About Internet Explorer or About Netscape. If you're still using a Version 3.x or older, the time has come to update.

http://www.netscape.com/computing/download/

http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine
New England Region
University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030-5370

Return Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 13
Farmington, CT